Hike in customs duty on anti-cancer drugs

4824. DR. ALADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether customs duty on several anti-cancer drugs has been hiked;

(b) whether Government would work on reducing prices of life saving drugs to make them more accessible to the masses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, however, these drugs are exempted from special Additional Duty of Customs (SAD). Full exemption from customs duty has been extended to four anti cancer drugs. Besides, Government is empowered under Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1995 to intervene, in the public interest, if the price of any formulation rises unreasonably.

National Consensus for the promotion of two child norm

4825. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to seek a national consensus for the promotion of the "two-child" norm in pursuance of achieving the average total fertility rate of 2.1 by the year 2010;

(b) if so, whether before taking any final decision in this regard, Government propose to build a consensus for the two-child norms as a concept and create awareness about it; and

(c) if so, by when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The National Population Policy 2000 (NPP 2000) affirms the commitment of government towards voluntary and informed choice and consent of citizens while availing of reproductive health care services, and continuation of the target free approach in administering family planning services.